

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2008 UTAH FISHING GUIDE

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will be recommending the following changes to the 2008 Fishing Rule and Guide at the Regional Advisory Committee and Wildlife Board meetings to be held during September and October, 2007. A complete listing of meeting dates and times can be found at www.wildlife.utah.gov.

1. **UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING:** Underwater spear fishing rules will be simplified and clarified in terms of waters available, limitations on gear, an expanded fishing season, and standardized bag and possession limits for all types of anglers.
2. **BAIT AND BAITFISH ALLOWANCES:** Certain baits used for fishing will be more controlled to lessen the threat of disease transmission between waters. Examples include proposed prohibitions on the use of live baitfish, salamanders (live or dead), the use of lures imbedded or covered with fish parts, and restrictions on the baitfish species that can be used while fishing Utah waters.
3. **FILLETING:** The fillet rule will be modified to allow anglers to prepare harvested fish once they have completed fishing, reached a fish cleaning station, arrived at camp, or reached their principal means of transportation. Exceptions will be fish harvested from Strawberry, Panquitch, and Jordanelle reservoirs where it will be illegal to fillet or otherwise process fish held in possession or in transit.
4. **CATCH AND KILL** for Burbot (statewide), Tilapia (Blue Lake), and smallmouth bass (Green River): This rule change provides for no creel limit for these species on the specified waters, and requires anglers to kill all of the fish they catch.
5. **SPECIFIC WATERS:** Several regulations on specific waters are also proposed for modification and simplification, and for enhancement of fishing opportunity.

Also, the Division of Wildlife Resources is seeking public input regarding rules for fishing tournaments, fishing contests and youth fishing clinics. Consideration will be given to remove these three items from the current Utah Fishing Guide for incorporation into a separate Division of Wildlife Resources administrative rule. The information presented at the September and October meetings will be informational only, and more formal proposals will be brought before the Regional Advisory Committees and Wildlife Boards at a later date.